

Aboriginal Education School

District No. 62



Our Vision, Mission, and Values

VISION—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

MISSION—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions..

VALUES—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

April 2012

Spring and Summer

Inside this issue:

Program Welcome	2
Our Staff	3
School News	5
Special Events	10 13
PRIZE COUPON	16

Aboriginal Languages

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island nations:

Hych'ke -
Coast Salish

Kleco kleco -
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -
Kwakwaka'
wakw

Department News

This winter the Aboriginal Education Department provided a number of opportunities for families and students. I would like to share a couple of highlights.

Math Mania, was coordinated by the Sooke Literacy Project, EMCS, PIMS (Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences) and University of Victoria. Over 150 participants enjoyed math activities through a station approach building, creating and imagining. EMCS youth leadership were great at facilitating families with games. T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes and Elder Shirley Alphonse graciously opened the night with a traditional welcome to the local territory.

In previous years, the Aboriginal Career Fair drew a trickle of Sooke's students due to location of the venue and day. This year the organizers expanded the event to a Thursday and Friday at Pacific Secondary, EMCS, and Victoria Native Friendship Centre. Over 160 students participated in a culturally rich career fair at each venue, including Elder Isabelle Charles, Chief Russ Chipps, Elder Shirley Alphonse and His Honour, The Honourable

Steven L. Point Lieutenant Governor at VNFC. As 'His Honour' shared this is one event youth need to attend to be informed about pivotal career choices and future life adventures !

The Aboriginal Department is very excited and preparing for our next community event Celebrating Student Success which is on April 18, 2012 starting at 5 p.m. This is an opportunity for our schools to share the work being done in classroom and to highlight many of our Aboriginal Education Department enhancement activities as there are student display boards of schoolwork! Our theme this year is 'Rebirth of Earth' embracing the Saanich Calendar. Dunsmuir will be hosting the event and designing the gym and space to celebrate the season. Students from Me to We Sacred Circle have assisted in the planning of the evening. The Me to We Sacred Circle will be leading interactive fun activities and student performances of talent will be presented. To ensure families can attend there are two busses available to and from the event. Both buses depart at 4:30 p.m.—one at Ruth King and one at EMCS. Please review the flyer on page 10 for all the exciting details...bring your pennies/\$\$ and join the auction for our Aboriginal graduation ceremony fundraiser.

First Peoples English 10/11/12 is a secondary program in which our department, secondary schools, counselling department have been promoting at the middle school level. Please ensure you inquire at the school about FPE 10/11/12 opportunity to engage students in rigorous, engaging and successful opportunity to graduation for all students.

Lastly, our district has the opportunity with the READ society to engage in a Digital Oral Storytelling and Animation project featuring links to our traditional territory nations: Scia'new, T'Sou-ke, and Pacheedaht Nations. Dano Underwood will lead Aboriginal students through a 8 or 10 week production using professional cameras and technology to create a DVD. Our department and Dunsmuir are excited as this is project based opportunity to further engage and enrich Aboriginal and build community relations within the school setting. We look forward to the gala 'red carpet' premier of the DVD and the creative production by students.

Again, thanks to the Aboriginal Education staff rich informational newsletter articles about our departments initiatives.

Kathleen King-Hunt

Our Traditional Territories

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- Coast Salish
- Nuuchah-nulth

Our three local First Nations Bands

Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

T'Sou-ke Nation – Sooke

Scia'new Nation – Beecher Bay

'SD No. 62 On Reserve population is 14%' There are 945 Aboriginal students in our program this year!'

Métis Organizations

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Métis Community Services
- SD No. 62 has 249 Métis students in our schools!'

Our Staff

Aboriginal Education Teachers

Norma-Jean May – Belmont Secondary

Kathy Sudlow – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Huw Griffiths – Spencer Middle

Chelsea Richardson – Journey Middle

Justine Durrant—Dunsmuir Middle

Lisa Stuart – Port Renfrew Elementary

Marlys Denny – Elementary E.S.D.

Ana Galac – Elementary E.S.D.

John Lyall— Spencer E.S.D.

Loni Skelton – Westshore First Nations Grad Program

Neal Donegani— Port Renfrew Elementary

Aboriginal Education Support Workers

Trish McNabb – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Lynn Ferguson – Belmont Secondary & Millstream Elem.

Sam Peekeekoot— Lakewood & Elementary E.S.D.

Dennis Warbrick – Spencer Middle

Tania Fetherston – Poirier & Saseenos Elem.

Michelle Nahanee – Journey Middle

Edie Charley – John Muir & Sooke Elem.

Sherri Rose—Westshore & First Nation Grad Program

Murielle Lagace – Happy Valley & Ruth King Elem.

Derrick Titian—Crystal View, Sangster Elem. & Dunsmuir Middle

Laurie Gibson— Pacific Secondary & MTC

Sharon Bond – David Cameron & Savory Elem..

Gina Elliott— Colwood, John Stubbs & Wishart Elem.

Sharlene Rogers – Hans Helgesen & Willway Elem.

Pam Jones – Port Renfrew Elementary

Lavina Charles – Halq'emeylem Language

Shirley Alphonse— T'Sou-ke Elder Project

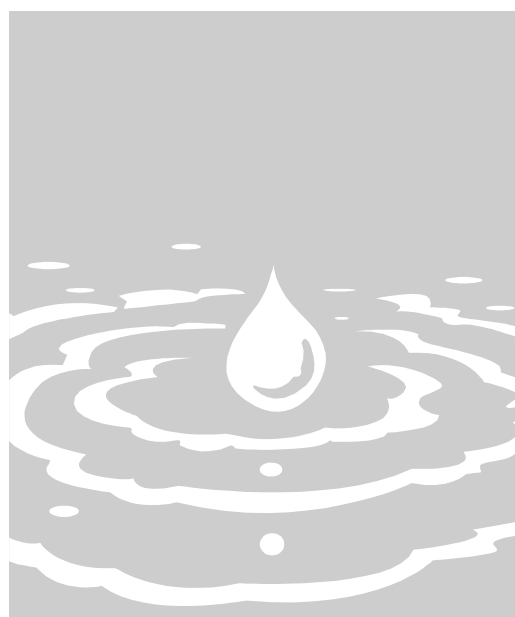
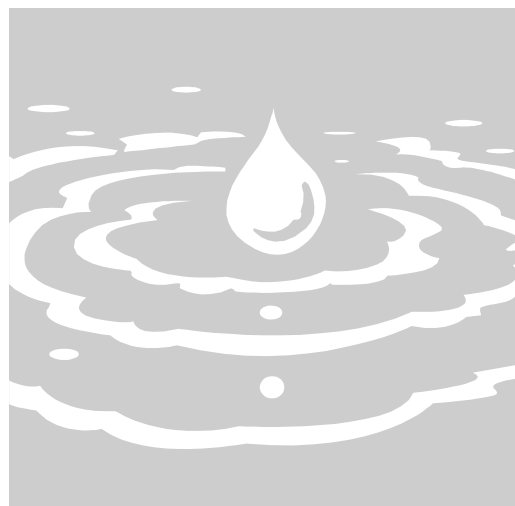
District Office

Kathleen King-Hunt – District Principal

Earleen Covey – Secretary

Our Website

[www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal education](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal%20education)
(look forward to updates in 2012)



Early Learning & Elementary News

Journeys of the Heart

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2011/2012 school year.

As Aboriginal families, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation. The staff of the Journeys of the Heart program work with the child and their families (at least one adult) to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun.

We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self esteem. We believe that children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences.

The program is free. We run Mondays and Wednesdays for a morning program 9:00 to 11:30am and an afternoon program from 1:00 to 3:30pm and siblings are welcome. The program is at Wishart Elementary School, S.D. No. 62.

We are ready, we just need you.

To find out more about our

program or to register please contact:

Julia Clifton (Early Childhood Educator)

384 9466 Ext: 250

JClifton@hulitan.ca

Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills.

A Place to Play—Beecher Bay

Strong Start is every Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. All Welcome!

Erin Armstrong—new coordinator!

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"

4901B East Sooke Rd

Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

Tuesday

8:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Thursday

8:45—11:45 a.m.

Hans Helgesen Elementary

250 478-3431

Port Renfrew Elementary - Strong Start

6633 Deering Rd,

Port Renfrew, BC V0S 1K0

Phone: 250-647-5577

Monday & Wednesday

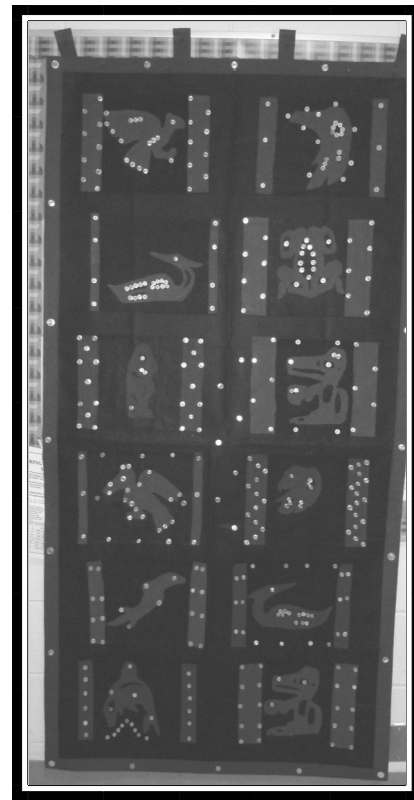
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Ready, Set, Learn Events

The Aboriginal Education Department hosts Ready, Set, Learn events at our early learning Aboriginal programs over the year. Please connect with one of the above programs to see when the next presenter assist with school readiness through cultural presentations, song, dance, literacy and a lot of fun!

Here is a link to preschool readiness tips:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/2009/rsl_english09.pdf



Willway Button Blanket

Elementary News

WILLWAY ELEMENTARY

At Willway my lunch group has been busy making button blanket panels to put on a display button blanket for the school. The blanket looks awesome boys and girls!

Mrs. St. John's class made button blankets and hung them along the hallway. They look great!

Mrs. Rostad has been practising an Aboriginal play with her class. I have been helping with the props for the play. I'm looking forward to seeing this play!

I have the hand banner from last year finally done!! I can't wait to see this on the walls.

I enjoy working at this school. Thank you for a continuing fantastic experience!

HANS HELGESEN ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Tonnesen and Ms. Bilous class have been studying First Nation people, learning about their ways of life. They've been busy planning a classroom potlatch/feast. Potlatches cover many of our celebrations and ceremonies. The class divided themselves into clans or crests and had to work together in their groups. They made great totems out of modeling clay and some lovely art decorations. The food for this was some basic staples; salmon, berries and bannock. Most students had parts to do at this event. I wanted to say well done div. 3!! I have had lots of fun working in the classrooms and instructing some First Nations art lessons!

Miss Rogers

DAVID CAMERON AND SAVORY

Greetings from Sharon Bond at David Cameron and Savory Elementary! We have had a busy year at both schools. As the year goes on, relationships with students and families continue to strengthen.

David Cameron had the pleasure of working with Pat Ekland, from the Metis Nation of Greater Victoria. She facilitated

a two day presentation for the Ms. Webber's Gr. 4/5 class. These workshops included – Metis history, culture, clothing, music, and dance.

The grade 4/5 also attended the Box of Treasures with Leslie McGarry at the Royal British Columbia Museum. This visit was the second workshop of a three day series on the introduction to Canada's first people.

Mrs. Jarvis' kindergarten class and Mrs. Johnson's class were joined by special guest Scott Sam from Nil'tuo Child and Family Services on our weekly nature walks. Scott shared his knowledge of the season, and shared a First Nation's traditional song. Thank you to Scott for the enriching experience

Charlene George assisted students at David Cameron and Savory, in creating traditional Aboriginal drums, students learned the process of preparing hides, assembling, and creating and painting their own drums designs. Drums will be displayed at our district wide annual "Celebrating Student Success" at Dunsmuir Middle School on April 18th. This event is one of our annual events that is put on by our Aboriginal department annually. Our next projects at both schools will be dream-catchers, we have a parent from our district who will come in and show the students the art of creating dream catchers. We look forward to this. Students and staff have expressed great interest in this activity. I am currently working with teachers and staff on items of work to display at our district event. These may include art, writing, poems or any piece of work the student would like to share with us. Savory and David Cameron students also enjoy the

opportunity to join me for lunch, games and activities.

Thank you for these few moments to share with you what is going on in our schools and our department.

Kleco Kleco.

Sharon Bond

Aboriginal Support Worker

Ahousaht/ Nuu chah nulth Nations

HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Greetings again from Happy Valley. The kindergarten classes have aquariums with salmon eggs in them and are witnessing the cycle of life from the salmon's perspective. The children get so excited on Monday mornings to see what has taken place over the weekend.

We were visited by the Purple Pirate, who incorporates exercise with magic. A real hit for the students and the occasional Oh or Ah from the staff.

We have had an ongoing monetary collection for a kindergarten student with Leukemia. The school held an event and the press was invited as well as all the staff and students. Two older students collected funds to cut off all their hair and donate the proceeds to Kenny and his family. The boys' hair was donated to the Cancer Society for making wigs.

Kenny's father also had all his hair cut as well as the lady hair stylist who was



S. Rogers schools' artwork

Elementary News

RUTH KING

It's a busy place Ruth King. We have had a change at the helm. Our new Vice Principal is Jeannie Deboise. **Welcome Jeannie.** Visitors include the Belmont Dancers who graced us with Modern, Jazz and Hip Hop dances. The students performed a glow in the dark Jump Rope routine. The Purple Pirate who mixes exercise with magic was fantastic. The grade 6's went to check out Spencer Middle School as they are on their way, sooner than later. The grade 4 and 5 classes have engaged in many First Nations projects such as button blankets, animal cards, petroglyphs and coastal villages. **Ben C** has been published in the Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul 2011/2012. Make sure you check it out our copy in the Library.

Celebrating Student Success is coming up soon. **April 18, 2012 at Dunsmuir Middle School from 5-8pm.** There will be free dinner, silent auction and demonstration of extra ordinary student talent. **There will be a bus leaving Ruth King at 4:30 sharp** accompanied by our own Miss Trish McNabb.

Murielle Lagace-
Aboriginal Support Worker

SASEENOS

Hello from Saseenos,
The kid's and I have been enjoying our lunch time culture club on Tuesdays and Thursday, coloring totem pole pictures, making bentwood boxes, Raven and Whale puzzles, somebody likes you Beary much Valentines cards, students created their own Eagles using local Coast Salish artist Sharlene Rogers design. We have been enjoying the T'Sou-ke Nations Elder Project with Elder Shirley Alphonse in Ms. Symington's kindergarten class learning the Sencoten names for animals and numbers. Ms. Haddads ¾ class and I enjoyed making ice cream, which started as a science project for one student and

turned into a class project, a very rich reward for three very hard working students in grade 1. Way to go you guys! I enjoy doing math with Ms. George's grade 2 class, reading with Ms. Watkins grade 5 class, math and spelling with Ms. Armstrong/Mrs. Strackers grade 1 class.

Hych'ke

Tania Fetherston

ECOLE POIRIER

Bonjour/ Hello, many of us have not met my name is Tania Fetherston I am Metis from Ontario, and I am the new Aboriginal Support worker. I would like to thank Pat Eckland from Metis Nation of Greater Victoria for her wonderful presentation on the fur trade where I got to share my Lynx fur that was gifted to me and my trade beads from Ahousaht. We enjoyed the Maple Man and his Maple sugar. He shared pictures of his Maple farm in Quebec, he taught the kids how to play the spoons and how to Jig. His Maple farm is a family bussines that still uses horse and buggy. During culture Club on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays we enjoy making button blankets, students created their own Eagles using local Coast Salish artist Sharlene Rogers design. We are doing oil pastel drawings and will be doing a special mothers day gift. I have enjoyed the sugar cube castles all the classes made, way to go Ms. Laidlaws class.

Tania Fetherston



S. Rogers schools' artwork

LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY

My name is Sam Peekeekoot, and I am Lakewood Elementary School's new Aboriginal Education Support Worker (AESW). I am excited to begin working with the staff and students at Lakewood, and look forward to getting to know everyone. My role as an AESW is to provide extra support and encouragement for students who could benefit from it. I will also be working to provide Aboriginal content to compliment standard school curriculum.

I identify as Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) and also with my British/Irish roots. I am a father of three wonderful children, including 3 year old twins, and my wife Savanna is a social worker and is currently at Uvic studying law.

I am very passionate about education, and am a lover of knowledge. I aim to share my enthusiasm for learning with everyone I am in contact with, and want to explore ways to inspire students through their individual interests as well as fun group projects and engaging activities. I look forward to becoming a familiar face to you all over the next few weeks!

HAPPY VALLEY—cont'd

cutting the hair. What an event, it was also televised on a local channel.

The grade 4 & 5 classes are finishing up their First Nations studies and participated in building Coastal villages, masks and Petroglyphs.

The Tzinqua Dancers will be at our school for June 21st to celebrate Aboriginal Day.

Upcoming is Celebrating Aboriginal Students Success on April 18th 2012 at Dunsmuir School from 5-8 pm. There will be a bus leaving Ruth King at 4:30 sharp for those in need of transportation. Students need to be accompanied by an adult.

Elementary School News

MILLSTREAM ELEMENTARY

News from Millstream Elementary

By Lynn Ferguson

Well one thing that's new at Millstream Elementary is me. My name is Lynn Ferguson and I'm the new Aboriginal Education Support Worker. Yes, Millstream Elementary has a new Support Worker excited about supporting your little ones. We have a Culture Club at lunch time - it hasn't been around for a while, but we are trying to remind the students that we are open for the business

of - **FUN**.

We are setting up some exciting things for the children. For instance: March 30th - Ed Peekeekoot. Ed is an accomplished musician and story teller - we are going to have a great time, I'm sure.

The teachers, administration and support staff have been open and supportive in getting things going, now that they have an Aboriginal Education Support Worker on board again. I've met all the Aboriginal students in the school and have had the pleasure of working with many of them. There are some pretty artistic students in the school and they have started filling the walls with art work.

As you can imagine, I don't have much news to relay right now, but it won't be long. The Celebration of Student Success will be on April 18th at Dunsmuir Middle School and we will have lots of successes to display for your viewing pleasure.

Hope to see you there.

Lynn Ferguson—Aboriginal Education Support Worker

JOHN MUIR ELEMENTARY

We've had a lot of things happening at John Muir. We had the Purple Pirate come to our school. It was packed with action and fun for all students. We, the staff enjoyed watching the students participate with the performer. We would like to welcome Rasheeda Haverty, new secretary to our school. John Muir held a floor hockey tournament. It was exciting to have other schools attend. Mrs Audet is retiring on April 1, 2012. We wish her well and we will miss her. Thank you to Mrs. Eagle, Mrs. Wyngaards and the *Dream Weaver Singers* along with Culture Club, we made many dream catchers for their performance. Great work from the students.

SOOKE ELEMENTARY

We had great things happening at Sooke. The Explorer Idol held a musical performance on the "Early Explorers". It was amazing! The staff and students enjoyed the performance. We are excited to be getting decals for the word welcome in our school. The word welcome is going to be put up on the wall in three different languages-West Coast, French (Metis), Sencoten. Sooke Elementary is working with T'Sou-ke Nation elders and band office with appropriate protocol in determining the words in Sencoten.

Thank-you, Hych'ka, to Leslie McGarry from the Victoria Native Friendship Centre for bringing the Box of Treasures to our school. It was great to have her back.

T'SOU-KE ELDER'S PROJECT

Elder's Project (Sencoten Language) is a huge success! The students are enjoying the program. They love Ms. Shirley, our elder. On February 29th, it was Anti-bullying Day. It was great to see the wave of pink in our schools. The students were reminded of how anti-bullying day came to be. The students are gearing up for Aboriginal Student Success Night. They

are excited to know their school work is going to be on display for community members to see.

Congrats, to all the read with me students-keep up the good work.

Ms. Edie—Aboriginal Education Support Worker and Ms. Ana-ESD teacher



S. Rogers schools' artwork

Elementary News

COLWOOD, JOHN STUBBS & WISHART



This new year has been busy with organizing few activities, role model visits & the “Celebrating Student Success” event! I have 3 students attending Celebrating Student Success – sacred circle program. The students attended their first “Me to We” leadership sessions on Feb 2 & 3 in T’Sou-ke Nation and will be attending two more sessions on April 12 & 13/12 in Scia’new (Beecher Bay) longhouse. I am on this organizing committee “Celebrating Student Success” and we look forward for the upcoming event on April 18/12 at Dunsmuir Middle School!

At all schools we have been working on dream catchers, button blankets and other Aboriginal arts/crafts as well as student in-class, individual academic support (math/reading), and lunch some lunch time



activities. We have had the privilege of hosting Cheryl Newman, who came to present to students her regalia and explained her Heiltsuk Nation traditions and ceremonies! Teachers & students enjoyed her presentation. We sincerely appreciated her presentation of her traditional regalia (see photos). Other activities that occurred at the schools were the drumming/singing, Metis Project, paddle making with Aboriginal designs, making dream catchers, and button blankets. The button blanket projects we are doing will be joined together like a quilt and we are hoping to display this at the “Celebrating Student Success” event!



Upcoming events/activities for these three schools are tentatively...drumming/singing, Aboriginal art presentations – carvings, prints, and possibly Aboriginal silver jewellery! We look forward to these upcoming role models & presenters to attend our classrooms & schools!



Shulqwilumaut (Gina Mae Elliott) AESW



CRYSTAL VIEW & SANGSTER

Hi, I’m Derrick from the Ahousalt Nation. I have been working at Sangster and Crystal View Elementary since September. The days I am there Tuesdays (Sangster) and Wednesday ‘new’ day (Crystal View). I go from class to room to classroom giving academic support to the students at both schools. I help the students with language arts, math, science, and with the grade one and Kindergarten classes. I read to or with the students.

I have spoken to both school principals at these schools about getting Aboriginal role models to come into the schools. The role models would do storytelling, Aboriginal art, making dreamcatchers, and going to learn about how we can use plants and mother earth in a cultural way. We are all very excited about having the role models come into the schools and I personally cannot wait to look forward to what the future holds for us.

Derrick Titian, AESW

Elementary School News

PORT RENREW ELEMENTARY

We have had a busy winter in Port Renfrew! We have been working on the Seven Sacred Aboriginal Teachings. So far, we have tackled Humility (tough concept for young students) and Honesty and we are about to explore Courage. The kids are really enjoying the activities and are reminding each other of the importance of being honest and brave. The older students are working on a short skit on honesty to perform for the younger students. Earlier in the winter, we were excited to have Michael Kusugak, author of *A Promise is A Promise*, and *The Littlest Sled Dog*, come and speak the students about Inuit culture and the importance of story telling in their culture. He and his wife brought some great clothing and artifacts that the students got use and try on. It was an outstanding visit and a great way to finish up our Inuit unit. We also said good bye to our classroom teacher, Alicia Ralph and welcome to our new teacher, Neal Donegani, who joined us after Christmas. He is a great fit and the students have really taken to him. We have had a few opportunities to do some exploring outside of Port Renfrew too. We have been to SEAPARC to swim and skate; we enjoyed the 12 Days of Christmas display at Butchart Gardens, and the students and staff at John Muir has graciously welcomed us into their classrooms for some learning fun and to meet the Grizzly hockey players! We are really looking forward to spring, not just for the flowers and warm weather but for three more exciting reasons! One, Linda Ermineskin is coming to make drums and paper bent wood boxes with the students; two, Eric Wong will be coming to speak to students about the Seven Sacred Teachings; and three, the Pacheedaht has agreed to fund the purchase of a Smart Board for our school and the Pre-School to use! We are so thankful and can't wait to start using it.



Pacheedaht Elder Leona Canute at Math Mania



Tara Munro, Education and Youth Programs



Celebration of Aboriginal Student Success April 18, 2012

Everyone Welcome!

**Displays of Aboriginal
Student school work
from all schools!**

**Interactive High energy
evening!**

**Opportunity to meet
new families and staff!**

Free Dinner and Door Prizes

**Penny Drive—bring a
penny for charity**

**Early Learning station
& activities**

**Performances of
Youth talent**

Grad Silent Auction

Art Activity /Free Bag

**Join us at Dunsmuir
Middle School gym at 5**

**Come Celebrate our Students' Success
5 - 8 p.m. at Dunsmuir Middle School
3341 Painter Rd., Victoria**

**Me To We, Sacred Circle &
Youth Leadership
Free dinner!**



Rebirth of Earth



Illustration by John Elliott, The Saanich Year

Two Busses leaving EMCS & Ruth King Elementary at 4:30 p.m. & returning at 8 p.m..

If you have any questions please call Kathleen King-Hunt at 474-9879 District Principal, Aboriginal Education

Middle School News

SPENCER

Greetings from the All Nations Room at Spencer Middle School.

To date we have had three monthly speakers luncheons. The guest speakers were students from the We Day fund raising team, Jan Peevers, and Norma-Jean May/Lonnie Skelton. Students from the All Nations Room enjoyed their field trip to the friendship center to attend the Career Fair.

The All Nations Room is currently involved with fund raising to bring water to a village in Africa. The fund raising team works with the We Day team located in Vancouver. Their fund raising events to date includes a bake sale, Easter grams, and a bottle drive. The fund raising activities are student initiated and led. Their goal is to raise \$2500.00.

Ongoing activities within the All Nations Room include once a month bannock making lessons with the bannock being sold fresh during the morning break. Other activities in the all nations room include doing paddles of 3 different sizes, movie Mondays and drum making with Charlene George.

The All Nations Room would also like to thank the many students who worked so hard on the button blanket. The button blanket was presented to Rosie our canteen lady who has been a big part of the All Nations Room over the years in keeping our students fed. In closing The All Nations Room would like to once again thank Rosie for her continuing support and to all the students who keep the All Nations Room a hub of activity.

All my Relations
Dennis



Elementary & Middle School News

DUNSMUIR

Hello my name is Derrick, at the beginning of January I have had the pleasure of starting work at Dunsmuir Middle School.

The days I'm there are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The first week I was there was a busy one, meeting students and staff. After that week things started to flow smoothly with the help of Justine Durrant my fellow co worker. I have established a daily routine of helping the students with their school work. I have also taken some of the students on a field trip called Me to We, which the students take on the leadership role. What they have learned here, they will use these skills at Celebrating Student Success Night which will take place in April. The students are also creating an Aboriginal art project (seven foot paper totem poles) with Charlene George, which will be on display at the event. In the near future we plan on having the students take part of the box of treasures with Leslie McGarry and the Royal British Columbia Museum. The students have suggested that they want to learn how to make dream catchers, so I have arranged for Alice Charlie, (who specializes in making them) to come into the school and show them how to do this.

In the school we have started a boys and girls club, here we do fun things with the students, a reward for their hard effort they put into their school work.

I'm looking forward to the rest of the school year, as the past few months have been an amazing experience for me working with and getting to know the students. It is also exciting knowing that we can have more Aboriginal role models to come in to work with the students, not only at Dunsmuir, but at Sangster, and Crystal View Elementary as well.

Derrick Titian

JOURNEY

Greetings from Journey Middle School

We have been extremely busy here at Journey. Time seems to have just flown by. Chelsea and I have been going into classrooms and reading stories of First Nations legends. We have developed an interactive reading lesson to accompany the book I am Raven, by local Métis author David Bouchard. Our goal is to visit every class in the school this year to share the story and to present some general cultural background on storytelling and totems. After reading, some of the classes will be using information from the book to write about which animal they think their personal totem may be.

In our Exploratory days, we have been constructing a Traditional Aboriginal village and it has lead to some very exciting conversations about how life used to be like, so we took a moment to wonder and dream.

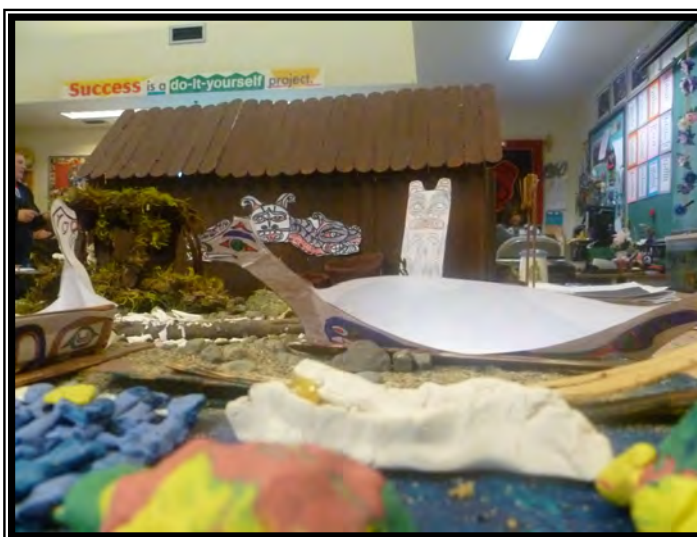
Brandy, our practicum student from Camosun College, is spearheading a family tree project. Each student will design a feather with his or her name on it, and draw out his or her family tree. When we have collected sufficient

information, we plan to post a huge family tree to show the connections between the families and communities at our school.

On a Thursday and Friday this term, a group of seven Aboriginal students from Journey joined Aboriginal Education's 'Me-to-We' leadership seminars. Our students participated in activities and leadership games with students from other middle schools, local elders, and teaching and support staff. This enthusiastic group will continue their leadership work on April 12 and 13th. They will also be integral in planning the 'Celebrating Student Success' night on April 18.

With the appearance of spring, we are getting ready to start our garden back up and with the harvesting of our vegetables, we will add them to our cooking club here at Journey. The Pacheedaht students lead the group. Fingers crossed we have enough to add special treats to our breakfast club.

Michelle Nahanee, C, Richardson



Secondary News

Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony 2012 Sooke School District #62

Schools Attending:

- ♦ Edward Milne Community School
- ♦ Westshore Learning Centre
- ♦ Belmont Secondary
- ♦ Pacific Secondary School
- ♦ Pacheedaht Carpentry Program

Why do we need education?

"Understanding the world around us is not only part of growing up, but it also provides us with important tools for

Our honored and spiritual elder Shirley Alphonse will be doing the opening prayer for our ceremony.

We would like to welcome our honored elders from various nations who will be attending this special event.

Drumming will be by T'Sou-

ke First Nation

Our key note speaker, **Richard Van Camp**, will bring a strong message of success to all of our students preparing them for their future. Look your best! There will be pictures taken by one of our own students and people from all over will be in participation.

We are fortunate to have Travis Henry creating all of our Grad rings that are gifted to our students for all of their hard work and success.

Aboriginal Gathering Place, Na'tsa'maht, at Camosun College. Saturday, May 12th, 2012 from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

Lansdowne Campus, 3100 Foul Bay Rd. Victoria, BC.

Tickets are limited!! Extra tickets are \$10.00 GET THEM NOW!!



PACIFIC SECONDARY/MTC

How time fly by , it is Spring now . At MTC the students have been very busy they have gone to the BC Museum . The students are just finishing off on there paddle project. They have done a wonderful job sanding, designing and painting the paddles. Denise Duch come in a show them different design to paint on the paddles. The Kids had a great time.

At the Element program, the kids just started to sand some paddles. We are planning a field trip for the kids to come to Beecher Bay and paddle a canoe, explore the shoreline in the near future .

At Pacific Secondary, we are doing lots of cultural things. The student are still working on the button blanket. They are doing such a great job . It is getting very close to grad, and the kids are getting very excite. It is coming so soon, I cannot wait. I am so proud of the grad students as they are working so hard.

Pacific Secondary is also doing a paddle project. The paddles are still getting worked on and some are finished which look very awesome . There is a Girls Club and they are cooking up a storm. In the girls group, we have cooked apple crisp, lemon bread, cupcakes and cookies. It is great fun to be able to cook with the girls.

We held a Career Day at Pacific Secondary and it turned out great , Thank-you to everybody who could make this event; we had a great time.

I can not believe it is getting closer end of the year, Thank-you for such a wonderful year. I can't wait for next year.

Laurie Gibson—

Secondary School News

BELMONT

Lynn Ferguson and Norma-Jean May

Greetings From Belmont Secondary By Lynn Ferguson

We have had some, absolutely, terrific role models come in to Belmont, so far, this year. Sharing experiences and talents with different classes helps everyone understand a little about First Nations on Vancouver Island and the Métis from historical to the present day.

We are proud to say that Belmont has some of the greatest teachers, school administrators and support staff in the district and I'd like to say THANK YOU for all your help and support.

Our cafeteria is open now and what tasty treats they are cooking up there!! Dawg's Café is affordable and the variety is mouth watering.

We have writers, poets, photographers, artists, academic scholars, dancers, singers, actors, musicians and trade hopefuls. Some of our daring students are working on scientific projects, such as: how long you can sleep before you have to get up and still make it to school on time. While others, the more daring of the bunch, are working on "if" factor projects like: (most popular)

If I wait till May, I can still make the credits I need to pass this grade!

If I sleep for another half hour, I can make up the first half hour of class – no problem!



Not to
crow or anything,

but.....



One of our Aboriginal students won a cash award for a photo he took this semester – Way to go!!!

One of our artistically talented students has just been accepted into the Summer Program at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design. WOW!

Two of our terrific team of Aboriginal Core Teachers, Norma-Jean May (Belmont) and Loni Skelton (Westshore First Nation Grad Program), have been busy within the Sooke School District Middle Schools, promoting our:



English 10, 11 & 12 First Peoples

Now this is **EXCITING**! All we need is our Aboriginal students and their friends to sign up for these exciting new English courses and they are good to go!!!!!!

Our new, English 10, 11 and 12 - First Peoples, are equivalent to the English courses currently being offered at Secondary Schools in BC and accepted at Colleges and

Universities.

English First Peoples, focuses on oral strategies, audio and text with the major focus on our First Peoples world view, from historical to present day.

Norma-Jean and Loni gave a grade 9 class, a small "taste" of English First Peoples 10. They were treated to the first chapter of "The Absolute Diary of a Part Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie. The strategy used: Lesson, sketch, talk and respond. The positive reaction by these students, was all we needed to reinforce the idea that these courses will work well for everyone – both teachers and students. This particular strategy helps a person learn about oral story telling, therefore, relaying comprehension of the story and solidifying their understanding. These English courses have the same expectations as the regular curriculum such as: attendance, exams, participation etc.

Having said all this we hope the grade 9's will sign up for the English First Peoples when selecting courses for next school year. Don't forget - we have BC First Nations Studies 12 already in our curriculum. BC First Nations Studies 12 is an alternative to Social Studies and accepted by Colleges and Universities.



Secondary School News

EMCS

Hello from EMCS. It has been a great start to second semester. Students have been busy in their classrooms, and access the room for extra help when needed, or to connect over break and lunch. Several of our students have graduated early, Cole, James and Tyler....this is a great achievement. Keelan, another grade 12 student is enrolled in the Lynx program at Camosun College achieving his level 1 welding while getting dual credits here at EMCS, congratulations. Tyler is also accepted into the HCA program at Camosun College starting in April 2012, way to go! Speaking of graduation we are busy sizing for rings and getting our graduates thinking of the future. We had an amazing turnout for our Aboriginal Career Fair held here on February 9th. Universities and businesses were busy recruiting our students, it was fun. Thanks to Lalita at UVIC for organizing the event and providing cookies. It was interesting to see all the students from grade 9-12 starting to think about all the opportunities that are available to them to start planning accordingly. This future planning fits nicely with course selection that finished up at the beginning of March. Fingers crossed that we have enough enrolled to run our First people English class, Kathy and I worked hard to promote our programs and meet the new parents and students coming up from Journey. Please remember that if your child did not get the course they wanted to please contact us, as often we can get students in the classes that they are wanting and that are best suited for them. We are looking forward to our annual grad fashion show. This show raises money for the participants to offset the cost of graduation. This year we have Nigel, Makayla, Brodie and Jesse participating. Hope you had time to go. We have a guest presenter Eric Wong from First Nation Education Steering Committee coming March 26th to speak to some of our planning classes as well as in our room. This presentation should be a great way to rejuvenate everyone coming back from spring break and give us the energy we need to make it to June.

We have a new vice-principal here at EMCS, Mike Huck; some of you may already know him from Westshore, we are lucky to have him. He has also provided us with two drums that students will be painting. One drum will be for EMCS and the other one will be auctioned off for our graduation ceremony either this year or for the next.

We are looking forward to Celebrating Student Success April 18th at Dunsmuir where we can show off some of the awesome work our students have been doing here.

We also have our Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony coming up fast, May 12th at Camosun College; it will be amazing as usual. Please encourage graduating students to contact either Trish or myself regarding scholarships and bursaries. It is important to get moving on scholarship resumes and cover letters as deadlines are approaching fast.

Kathryn Sudlow – Support Teacher, ksudlow@sd62.bc.ca,
Trish McNabb – Aboriginal Education Support Worker
tmcnabb@sd62.bc.ca

WESTSHORE CENTRE AND WESTSHORE ANNEX

We'd like to wish Mike Huck the best with his new endeavours he has gone to EMCS as their new Vice Principal you are sorely missed by all.

We are collecting articles for the next edition of Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul. If any students have any poems,

pictures, stories or carvings. Please hand them into myself or Loni. We are also collecting articles for the display at Celebrating Student Success night. On April the 18th 2012 at Dunsmuir. There will be a bus leaving Edward Milne, Belmont and Ruth King to deliver students and their families that need a ride to and from the event. Call the School board office for further questions of transportation.

The Aboriginal Career Fair was held at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre on February the 9th we had a fantastic group of career displays the attendance of our students was unbelievable! There were students from all districts. Congratulations to a student that attended the career fair and is now accepted to the Emily Carr Summer Program. **Way To GO!!**

If there are any families out there that can assist with fundraising or donations for our graduates please do not hesitate to drop them off at the School Board office C/O Kathleen King-Hunt (Graduation 2012). Thank you in advance for any and all help you can provide. If you ever need to get a hold of me or have any questions feel free to contact me at the information below.

All my relations,

Sherri Rose – Aboriginal Support Worker

**Westshore Graduation Program.
250-391-0687 ext. 204 or 250-857-**

Fall/Winter Edition

3143 Jacklin Road
Langford, B.C.
V9B 5R1

Phone: 250 474-9879
Fax: 250-474-9825
E-mail: kkinghunt@sd62.bc.ca

Submissions

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your submissions to ecovey@sd62.bc.ca

Earleen Covey (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

*Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for
the newsletter submissions!*



**Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to
send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.**



Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

Return this coupon to win family books from Aboriginal Education Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school.

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62 School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

Schools

Visit the District
Resource Centre
for numerous
Aboriginal titles to
use for the
classroom teaching



"My backyard in Sooke with eagle and deer."

Emily Raymond, 7 years old

Grade 2, Ecole Poirier

(Submitted by the family.)

B

O

O

K

M

A

R

K

Strong Reader Tools

*When I look at the cover of my book,
my brain searches for information
about...*

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict
the book is going to be about...

As I'm reading my book...

5. I can stop reading when my brain
says, "Hey! That didn't make sense
when"...

6. I can search my brain for
information that isn't in the book,
this will help me to understand the
book better...

7. I can say what the most important
pieces of information are...

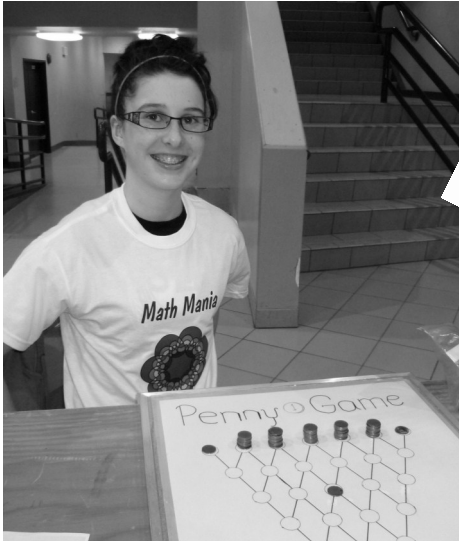
8. I can make pictures in my brain or
see a movie of the book in my brain...

After I've finished reading my book...

9. I can now say how my thinking has
changed from my prediction and
I can retell the book...



Upcoming Events



Katie H., Journey Middle , Math Mania 2012



Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Go to www.mngv.ca for
community monthly pot-
luck locations and dates!
Join MNGV facebook too!

All the best ...

Alicia Ralph in South
Africa, Swaziland and
Zimbabwe.

We are following your
blog: www.together-we-stand.ca

Newsletter coupon winners!

- Sarah F. Hans Helgesen
- Emily R., Ecole Poirier
- Travis R., John Muir
- Emily and Erin, Sooke
- Tanner S., Wishart

- Noah T., John Muir
- Charlotte S., John Muir
- Mitchell V., John Muir
- Brad T-S., EMCS
- Mahalia N., EMCS
- Arthur S., EMCS

Events.....!



Math Mania 2012

*Thanks to UVIC, UBC, Sooke Literacy and T'Sou-ke
Nation for organizing and hosting Math Mania for all
parents at EMCS 2012!*

